Students' Association
Film and Television Institute of India,
Law College Road,
Pune: 411004

Pune
05-07-2015

PRESS STATEMENT

The Panel representing the concerns of the Students of FTII met with the Hon. Minister of Information and Broadcasting and Ministry officials on 3/7/2015.

The main concern of the Panel that met with the Ministry was to hold in a passive state the newly formed Society and, in the interim, constitute a committee of experts to suggest norms and guidelines for setting up the FTII society, which would make such appointments diligent and transparent.

However, the Officials felt societies are ornamental bodies of little consequence in the academic discourse. The Students felt this to be in contradiction with the by laws which empower the President of FTII Society to chair both the Governing and Academic Council which work in tandem with each other to make policy decisions in the areas of academics and management.

Instead the minister dwelt at great length on all that ailed the Film Institute. The Minister stated his position as Finance Minister to assure the students that buildings and equipment would be upgraded. However when brought to his notice that an Institution embodies a vision, which the present society was not in a position to provide, the Minister indicated that if students persisted in their demand for reconstitution of the society they might have to face the bleak prospect of shut down and eventual privatization.

The students accepted that there are problems at the Institution of backlogs and in order to address that an appropriate Director who can manage the day-to-day affairs of the Institute be appointed through a search committee. However such suggestion did not get any attention.

The Minister could do little but to offer assurances in the 'future'. But the students' concerns are of the present.

The concerns regarding the newly appointed FTII society members were repeatedly evaded by the Hon. Minister. The Minister maintained that the society would not interfere in the day-to-day academic discourse of the Institute. However the need to address this concern was acutely felt by the students in wake of the recent developments at ICHR, TIFR and IIM's who have faced government interference in areas of academics and governance.

In view of the inclusive meetings, students are left with no other option but to go ahead with their strike.

Students' Association, FTII
Youtube- ftiistudentsbody@gmail.com,
https://www.facebook.com/pages/FTII-Wisdom-Tree